Newburn Urban District Council

(County of Northumberland)

ANNUAL

REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1948

PELAW-ON-TYNE:
Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works

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Officers of the Health Department

Medical Officers of Health :

GUY B. PICTON, M.B., B.S.
(Resigned 31-12-48).

MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1-1-49).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN CORNEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

GEORGE G. OXLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Senior Health Visitor :

Mrs. L. E. SANDILANDS, H.V. Cert. R.S.I., S.R.N., S.C.M.
(Transferred to N.C.C. 5-7-48).

Additional Health Visitor :

Miss M. H. SMITH, H.V. Cert. R.S.I., S.R.N., R.F.N
(Transferred to N.C.C. 5-7-48).

Clerks :

Mrs. I. KEATING
(Transferred to N.C.C. 8-8-48).

Miss L. SNAITH

Annual Report
of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ended December 31st, 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the
Newburn Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION.

There is an increase of 600 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population, from 20,750 in 1947 to 21,350 in 1948.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population shows a slight decline, being 19·62 in 1948 and 23·27 in 1947. There were 64 fewer births in 1948 than in 1947. The rate for England and Wales was 17·9 for 1948.

The still birth rate shows an increase from 18·3 in 1947 to 32·3 in 1948. There were 9 still births in 1947 and 14 in 1948.

There were 13 illegitimate births in 1948 compared with 15 in 1947.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

This rate shows an increase from 10·9 per 1,000 of the population in 1947 to 11·2 in 1948. The rates for England and Wales were 12·0 for 1947 and 10·8 for 1948.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The death rate of all infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 28·64. This figure shows a decline from that of 1947, which was 43·48.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age in 1948, compared with 21 in 1947. It is noteworthy that 9 out of 12 deaths in 1948 occurred in the first month of life (neo-natal deaths) and 8 of these within the first three days.

It is pleasing to observe that the figure of 28·64 for 1948 is below that for England and Wales, which was 34·0.

The infantile mortality rate for 1948 is the lowest figure recorded in this district during the last 20 years, and probably the lowest figure ever reached. This is gratifying, as this rate is often regarded as the best index of the general health of a population.

There were no deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under two years of age, compared with 6 in 1947 and a rate of 3·3 per 1,000 population for England and Wales in 1948.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths registered in 1948 as in 1947. The figure for England and Wales in 1948 was 1·02.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart and circulatory diseases head this list. The number of deaths is 122 in 1948, giving an increase on 93 in 1947.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 43 in 1948, compared with 34 in 1947.

Cancer of Breast increased by	4
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum increased by	3
Cancer of other sites increased by	2

Deaths from respiratory diseases have declined from 31 in 1947 to 19 in 1948.

The chief decline is observed in deaths from Bronchitis, which were 20 in 1947 and 9 in 1948.

Deaths from prematurity show a slight increase, being 4 in 1948 and 2 in 1947.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The mortality rate for the pulmonary form of the disease shows a slight decrease, and that for the non-pulmonary form remains the same.

In 1948, 12 deaths from pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered and 2 from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. In 1947, there were 15 deaths from pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were 33 new cases notified in 1948, 28 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, compared with 41 new cases in 1947, 30 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notifications of these diseases are set out in a separate table of the report.

1948 showed an increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever to 56 cases, compared with 14 in 1947. The disease was generally of a mild type.

There was also an increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough, there being 171 notified in 1948 and 71 in 1947.

The incidence of Measles was similar in both years, being 300 in 1948 and 313 in 1947.

The incidence of Diphtheria declined still further to 2 cases in the year, one being a non-immunised child of one year and the other an incompletely immunised boy of 15 years (one injection only, seven years ago). In 1947, 9 cases were notified.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified.

Acute Pneumonia notifications decreased to 35 in 1948, as compared with 48 in 1947.

There were no notifications of Cerebro-Spinal Fever in 1948 and 7 in 1947, but those for Erysipelas increased from 1 in 1947, to 7 in 1948.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Diphtheria Immunisation of children of 5–15 years, as well as those of 1–5 years, came under the care of the County Council on July 5th, 1948.

Until the South Area administration was developed, immunisation of school children was carried out by this authority until the end of 1948.

49 per cent. of children in the 0–5 age group and 98 per cent. of the children in the 5–15 age group have been immunised.

There is room for improvement in this figure of 49 per cent. of the 0–5 year old children. Immunisation of children under five years of age is done regularly at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the district, and by the general practitioners. Early immunisation, at about eight months old, is being stressed.

Number of Children who Completed a Full Course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area during the Year, 1948.			Total Number of children who were given a Secondary or Reinforcing Injection.
Age at date of Final Injection.			
Under 5.	5—14.	Total.	
333	197	530	305

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

This service was transferred to the County Council on July 5th, 1948, and details up to this date are given on page 11 of the report.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Transference of this service to the County Council occurred on July 5th ; details up to this date are given in another section of the report.

On behalf of Dr. Picton, who resigned his office as Medical Officer of Health on December 31st, 1948, I wish to thank the Council, Health Committee, Clerk of the Council, Mr. Corney and staff of the Health Department, for their valuable help and co-operation throughout the year.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector's report follows on page 13.

Statistical Summary and Social Conditions

Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	4,649
Registrar General's estimated population	21,350
Number of inhabited houses, according to rate books	6,119
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£426
Rateable Value	£107,747

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Live Births (legitimate)	203	203	406
,, ,, (illegitimate)	9	4	13
Still Births	10	4	14
Deaths	132	109	241

Birth rate per 1,000 population	19·62
Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	32·3
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11·2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	28·64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	27·09
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	76·9

Deaths.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	43
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	–
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	–
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	–

Causes of Death in Newburn Area, 1948.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
ALL CAUSES	132	109	241

	Males.	Females.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	..	..
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever	..	..
4. Whooping Cough	..	..
5. Diphtheria	..	..
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	6
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	..	1
9. Influenza	1	..
10. Measles	..	..
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis	..	..
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	..	..
13. Cancer..	24	19
14. Diabetes	3	1
15. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	22	20
16. Heart Disease	35	34
17. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	4
18. Bronchitis	7	2
19. Pneumonia	4	4
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	..
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	..
22. Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	..	..
23. Appendicitis	..	..
24. Other Digestive Diseases	2	3
25. Nephritis	2	2
26. Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	..	..
27. Other Maternal Causes	..	..
28. Premature Birth	3	1
29. Congenital Malformation Birth Infantile Disease ..	2	3
30. Suicide	..	1
31. Road Traffic Accident	..	1
32. Other Violent Causes	5	..
33. All Other Causes	5	6

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

	Newburn	England and Wales
1938	57·0	53
1939	77·84	50
1940	42·48	55
1941	90·6	59
1942	71·61	49
1943	49·84	49
1944	56·51	46
1945	48·52	46
1946	53·63	43
1947	43·48	41
1948	28·64	34

INFANT MORTALITY.

Respiratory failure	1 day.
Respiratory failure	2 days.
Hæmorrhagic disease	3 days.
Debility from birth due to prematurity	3 weeks.
Broncho-pneumonia	2 months.
Debility	1 day.
Premature birth	1 day.
Premature birth	1 day.
Hæmorrhage into Lateral Ventricle	1 day.
Broncho-pneumonia	9 months.
Cardiac syncope	6 months.
Pulmonary atelectasis	20 hours.

TOTAL 12.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 10 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Number of Cases—Civilians.

Disease	0—		1—		3—		5—		10—		15—		25 and over		Age unknown		Total		Hospital	Deaths
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Scarlet Fever	..	..	2	..	4	8	10	11	5	9	1	3	1	2	..	..	23	33	52	..
Whooping Cough	12	13	17	18	25	26	26	22	2	2	..	1	3	4	..	..	85	86	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	8	11	36	39	45	54	54	49	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	143	157	..	..
Diphtheria..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..

Disease	0—		5—		15—		45—		65 and over		Age unknown		Total		Hospital
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Acute Pneumonia	7	3	3	2	4	7	6	2	..	..	1	..	21	14	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ac. En. Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric or Typhoid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	4	3	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oph. Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Health Visitors' Visits.

204 first visits under 1 year.
151 revisits under 1 year.
388 visits 1–5 years.
32 visits expectant mothers.
116 visits not classified.

Attendances at Clinics.

WESTERHOPE	First visits under 1 year	34
	First visits over 1 year	7
	Revisits under 1 year	369
	Revisits over 1 year	183
LEMINGTON	First visits under 1 year	68
	First visits over 1 year	8
	Revisits under 1 year	989
	Revisits over 1 year	599
THROCKLEY....	First visits under 1 year	97
	First visits over 1 year	6
	Revisits under 1 year	981
	Revisits over 1 year	491
WEST DENTON	First visits under 1 year	34
	First visits over 1 year	7
	Revisits under 1 year	317
	Revisits over 1 year	295
DILSTON CLINIC	Ante-Natal visits	299
	Post-Natal visits	2
THROCKLEY ANTE-NATAL CLINIC		
	New patients	171
	Revisits	673
	Post-Natal	14

196 live births.
4 still births.
147 born in hospital.
49 born at home.
10 premature births in hospital.
2 premature births at home.
3 illegitimate births.
3 babies died under four weeks.
1 baby died over four weeks.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 33 new cases have been notified, 28 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, compared with 30 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary in 1947.

The following table shows the age distribution of the 33 new cases and of the deaths of 14 persons certified to be due to Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1–5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
5–15...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15–25...	4	3	...	3	2	...	...	...
25–35...	5	5	...	...	2	3	...	...
35–45...	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
45–55...	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	...
55–65...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
65 and over ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Age Unknown ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	15	13	1	4	6	6	1	1
	28		5		12		2	
	33				14			

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st, 1948

To Dr. Madge Hopper.

MADAM,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year ended December 31st, 1948.

In my last three reports I have had to record that the Additional Sanitary Inspector has resigned to take up an appointment with another Authority. It is unfortunate that such frequent staff changes should occur, as apart from the inconvenience caused to myself, the maintenance of a reasonable standard of inspection throughout the district is rendered more difficult. In stating this I recognise there is little the Local Authority can do to remedy the position, as it is only natural for a young man to seek advancement as he gains experience.

Mr. Oxley has been with us since November, 1947, and during his term of office he has shown himself to be a thoroughly capable inspector, and I wish to record my appreciation of his work here.

I wish also to thank Miss Snaith for the efficient way in which she has carried out her duties.

The year has been a notable one in the history of public health, and although we in the environmental hygiene branch of the service have not been directly affected by the transfer of functions under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the department has experienced a change of personnel in losing the Health Visitors and Ambulance Drivers, together with one clerk.

As officer in charge of the Ambulance Service, I feel some regrets at its transfer to the County Council, as this service was one of which this Council was particularly proud. There is no doubt, however, that some areas will have benefited from the change-over.

HOUSING.

During the year it has been pleasing to note that more materials and labour have become available to deal with repairs and maintenance of houses. I find that difficulty is now experienced by the " small " landlord in carrying out necessary repairs, the cost of which has increased two or three-fold. This is probably attributable to the fact that the tenants' rents have not been increased to meet the additional expenditure.

I also feel that some relaxation with regard to Clearance Area procedure might be made now that rehousing has overcome the most urgent cases of need.

Details of housing work carried out are to be found on page 16 of the report.

OVERCROWDING.

I am informed by Mr. Tarbitt, the Housing Manager, that some 70 per cent. of the 194 families rehoused during the year had been living under overcrowded conditions.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the district by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and has at all times been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

All the houses in the area, with the exception of 13, have pipe supplies, the occupants of these 13 houses drawing their supply from stand-pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The construction of a new main sewer was commenced at Westerhope to serve new buildings and to remedy flooding of part of the area which had occurred in recent years when very heavy rainfall was experienced.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the close of the year there were 6,584 water closets, 23 pail closets, and 41 privies in use in the district.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Number and Nature of Inspections.

	VISITS.	
Visits and revisits under the Public Health and Housing Acts	1,035	
Shops and Food Stores	166	
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops	81	
Tents, Vans, &c.	9	
Slaughterhouses	5	
Fish Shops	22	
Factories and Workshops	45	
Keeping of Animals	47	
Refuse Receptacles	69	
Offensive Accumulations	2	
Smoke Observations	7	
Rodent Control	190	
Inspection of Carcases	54	
		1,732
Visits *re* Infectious Disease	61	
„ *re* Disinfection (T.B. Cases)	7	
„ *re* Verminous Premises	22	
		90
Visits *re* Water Samples	8	
„ *re* Shops Act	14	
„ *re* Tenancy of Council Houses	4	
Miscellaneous Visits	135	
		161
TOTAL VISITS		1,983

Works Effected.

Dampness abated	24
Wall and ceiling plastered and repaired	151
Roofs made weatherproof	105
Pointing to walls renewed	25
Eaves gutters, and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	109
Floorboards and skirting boards repaired	30
Doors and door-frames repaired or renewed	99
Window frames, cords, and panes renewed	54
W.C. apparatus overhauled	45
Burst water pipes repaired	43
Yard surfaces repaired	15
Fireplaces overhauled	17
Chimney stacks repaired	10
Premises cleansed and rid of vermin	9
Waste water pipes repaired	17
Drains repaired and cleared	16
Walls rebuilt	15
Steps and handrails repaired	21
Scullery bench renewed	16
Washboilers repaired	2
Ventilating bricks provided	4
Dustbins provided	24
Set-pot repaired or renewed	10
Smoke nuisance abated	5
Scullery sink renewed	5

Statutory Notices.

Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	....	1
,, 39, Public Health Act, 1936	....	14
,, 45, ,, ,, ,, ,,	....	16
,, 56, ,, ,, ,, ,,	....	2
,, 75, ,, ,, ,, ,,	....	13
,, 93, ,, ,, ,, ,,	....	23
		69

NEW HOUSES BUILT.

During the year 182 permanent traditional houses were built by the local authority.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

In accordance with Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health, the four cinemas in the district have been periodically visited, and conditions found to be generally satisfactory.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

As all meat exposed for sale in this area is slaughtered in Newcastle, we have no details of numbers of animals condemned as unfit for human food. Appended is a list of foods condemned and surrendered :—

Beef (home killed)	21 stones
Mutton (home killed)	46 stones
Mutton (imported)	93¾ lb. plus 3 carcases
Pork	24 lb.
Mussels, Salmon, Pilchards, and Sardines	38 cans
Evaporated Milk	75 cans
Jam	21 cans
Peas and Beans	40 cans
Meat Roll and Tongue	23 cans
Tomatoes	38 cans
Grapes, Peaches, Fruit Salad, and Plums	20 cans
Soup	8 cans
Meat and Fish Paste	8 cans
Turnips	1 can
Cake Mixture	23 packets
Dried Egg	2 packets
Ryvita Crispbread ..	121 packets
Bacon	2¾ lb.
Rolled Oats	1½ lb.
Butter	11 lb.
Pickles	12 jars
Flour	34 lb.
Prunes (dried)	25 lb.
Blackcurrant Cordial	4 bottles
Eggs	8 dozen

The local Food Office supply us with information about the slaughter of " self-suppliers' " pigs and, wherever possible, these pigs are examined and if diseased the owner is advised accordingly.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

It will be seen from the inspections that 200 visits were made to shops, food stores, &c., and I am pleased to report that the standard of cleanliness observed is generally high. Steady progress has been made in having instantaneous hot-water geysers installed, and I hope that by the end of 1949 every food shop in the district will have constant hot water available.

In order to test the efficiency of washing-up methods in canteens, public houses, and schools (meals service), 72 swabs were taken from dishes, knives, forks, glasses, and cups, and in some cases moderate growths of staphylococci were isolated. Generally, the standard of cleanliness was satisfactory, and no pathogenic organisms were found.

1. *Factories Act*, 1937.—*Part* 1 *of the Act :*

PREMISES	Number on Register.	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by L.A. ..	10	10	..	..
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	34	35	..	..
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	44	45	..	..

2. *Cases in which defects were found.*

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2.)	..	..
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	..	..
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	..	..
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.)	..	..
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—		
(*a*) Insufficient	2	1
(*b*) Unsuitable or Defective	12	8
(*c*) Not Separate for Sexes	..	..
Other Offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	..	..
TOTAL	15	10

MILK SUPPLY.

The following statement shows the number and result of examinations carried out :—

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Of the 32 samples produced in the area, 22 or 68·7 per cent. were satisfactory.

Of the 35 samples produced outside the area, 25 or 71·4 per cent. were satisfactory.

Of the 67 samples obtained and submitted for testing, 47 or 70 per cent. were satisfactory.

Tubercle Bacilli.

Four samples were submitted for examination for the presence of B. Tubercle and were found to be satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL.

Two sewer maintenance treatments and a surface treatment were carried out in addition to control of refuse tips and Council property. The occupiers of business premises appreciate the service we are able to provide at a reasonable cost to themselves. Systematic action against rats has reduced the seriousness of the problem during the past few years.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS, &c.

D.D.T. powder and liquid were again used successfully in the eradication of bed-bugs. In co-operation with the Housing Manager, we arranged for applicants for Council houses, whose tenancy was deferred due to verminous conditions, to be supplied with D.D.T. and spray and instructed in the best method of ridding their premises of vermin. A considerable number of complaints of the presence of cockroaches was received, and difficulty in eradicating this pest was experienced. Experiments with various proprietory insecticides containing D.D.T. and the use of Gammexane have produced better results in the destruction of cockroaches.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

The scheme of Public Health Propaganda was continued throughout the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

From January 1st until July 4th, 1948, 1,867 patients were carried, 40 being accidents.

JOHN CORNEY,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.